

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /096 W
-----050802Z 063548 /13

R 011632Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7325
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, FR, FT
SUBJ: OAU DJIBOUTI CONFERENCE RUNS INTO OVERTIME

REF: ACCRA 2395

1. INSTEAD OF CLOSING EVENING 31 MARCH AS SCHEDULED,
OAU CONFERENCE ON DJIBOUTI HAS RUN INTO SERIOUS DEBATE
AMONG NATIONALIST FACTIONS WHICH WILL PROLONG
CONFERENCE THROUGH 1 APRIL AND POSSIBLY LATER.
AFTER SPENDING 29 AND 30 MARCH WITH NATIONALIST FACTIONS
READING POSITION PAPERS, CONFERENCE ONLY GOT DOWN TO
ISSUE TO WORKING TOWARDS UNIFIED POSITIONS ON ISSUES ON
31 MARCH. AFAR FACTIONS (UNI, MLD, MPL) APPEAR TO
HAVE FORMED JOINT POSITION TO ESTABLISH AND APPOINTED
NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL WHICH WOULD BE DJIBOUTI'S
CHIEF POLITICAL BODY AFTER INDEPENDENCE. THIS BODY
WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONAL
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ASSEMBLY TO BE ELECTED 8 MAY 77, WHICH THE AFAR
FACTIONS SEE AS A MAJOR THREAT. THE POLITICAL
COUCIL WOULD ACT AS A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND SIX
MONTHS AFTER INDEPENDENCE NEW ELECTIONS WOULD BE
HELD UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

2. LPAI, FLCS AND PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ALL OPPOSE THIS

PLAN AND FLCS AND PARLOMENTARY GROUP HAVE REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THEY NOW ACCEPT THE PARIS PLAN FOR INDEPENDENCE. THERE APPEARS TO BE NO REAL MOVEMENT TOWARDS COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS OF FACTIONS AND CONFERENCE IS LIKELY TO END WITH ISSUE UNRESOLVED. MEMBERS OF OAU INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE ARE REPOREDITLY CHAGRINED ISSUE CAME UP SINCE THEY HOPED FOR QUICK AGREEMENT ON MEANINGLESS GENERALITIES THAT WOULD PAPER OVER OBVIOUS DISAGREEMENTS AMONG FTAI FACTIONS.

3. ANOTHER ISSUE THAT CROPPED UP AND HAS SOME POTENTIAL FOR DISRUTING FRENCH PLANS FOR SMOOTH TRANSITION OF POWER WAS FRENCH NOTIFICATION TO OAU MEMBERS THAT OUTSIDE OBSERVERS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO MONITOR ELECTIONS ON 8 MAY ONLY WITH SEVERAL RESTRICTIONS. ONLY 6 OBSERVERS WOULD BE PERMITTED IN DJIBOUTI (THE FREHCH CLAIMED HOTEL SPACE IS LIMITED) AND COULD ENTER DJIBOUTI ONLY ONE OR TWO DAYS BEFORE ELECTIONS AND HAD TO LEAVE ONE OR TWO DAYS AFTERWARDS. FURTHERMORE, THEIR MOVEMENTS WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO PREVENT WHAT THE FRENCH TERMED AS "INTERFERENCE" IN THE ELECTIONS. FRENCH WERE CONDEMNED FROM ALL SIDES FOR THIS ONE, ALTHOUGH SOME FACTIONS UNDOUBTEDLY MADE NOISES IN NAME OF CONFORMITY RATHER THAN OUT OF CONVICTION.

SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ACCRA02482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770117-1169
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704100/aaaadfdf.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bfeeb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ACCRA 2395
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2663421
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAU DJIBOUTI CONFERENCE RUNS INTO OVERTIME
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, PDEV, FR, FT, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bfeeb39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009